

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00278 261057Z

17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-02 OMB-01

OPR-02 IO-14 DRC-01 /123 W

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O 260950Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2475

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ, PO

SUBJECT: LOURENCO MARQUES REACTION TO COUP IN PORTUGAL

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 277 (NOTAL)

1. NEWS OF COUP IN PORTUGAL BEGAN TO TRICKLE IN THROUGH INTERNATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTS EARLY IN MORNING OF APRIL 25 AND NEWS FIRST REACHED CONGEN SHORTLY AFTER BBC 10 O'CLOCK NEWSCAST.

2. CITY REMAINED CALM THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT, WITH CLOSEST THING TO EXCITEMENT BEING CROWDS OF PEOPLE MOBING NEWS BOYS SELLING SPECIAL LATE EVENING EDITION OF TRIBUNA WHICH CARRIED COMPLETE ANI ACCOUNT OF LISBON EVENTS FROM 0814 IN MORNING TO 1901 IN EVENING.

3. CONTRARY TO BBC BROADCAST, THERE WERE NO EXTRA MILITARY OR GUARDS IN EVIDENCE AROUND GOVT BUILDINGS. DESPITE RUMORED

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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00278 261057Z

HOUSE ARREST OF GOVERNOR GENERAL (WHICH STILL UNCONFIRMED),

THERE WERE ONLY TWO GUARDS TO BE SEEN AT EACH ENTRANCE TO HIS RESIDENCE, AS NORMAL.

4. RUMOR THAT MILITARY POLICE HAD IMPOSED AN OBLIGATORY CURFEW IN THE CITY STARTING AT 2100 WAS LATER OFFICIALLY DENIED. ATTENDANCE AT CINEMAS, HOWEVER, WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN USUAL.

5. MORNING PRESS OF APRIL 26 ALSO CARRIES FULL ACCOUNT OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AS WELL AS SEMI-OFFICIAL (OFFICIOSO) GOVT NOTE STATING THAT NEWS FROM LISBON INDICATED THAT MILITARY MOVEMENT HAD ERUPTED, WHICH HAD SUPPORT OF VARIOUS UNITS OF ARMED FORCES AND WHICH OBTAINED RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER CAETANO. WHILE THERE WAS NOT YET ANY OFFICIAL INFORMATION, POWER HAD APPARENTLY BEEN ASSUMED BY MILITARY JUNTA WHOSE MEMBERSHIP HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED AS OF 2230 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 25. NOTE CONTINUED THAT GOVERNOR GENERAL, IN STRICT COOPERATION WITH CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES, WILL TRY TO ASSURE CONTINUED NORMALCY OF LIFE IN THE STATE OF MOZAMBIQUE AND COUNTS ON POPULATION TO MAINTAIN COMPLETE CALM AND CONFIDENCE DURING THESE MOMENTS. WHEN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

6. NO HARD INFORMATION YET AVAILABLE ON REACTIONS IN BEIRA AND NAMPULA, ALTHOUGH ACCORDING ONE REPORT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BASTO MACHADO IS "STILL AT HIS DESK." VARIOUS PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES SEEN YESTERDAY BY MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, WHO IS HOSTING A BRITISH TRADE MISSION, SEEMED RELAXED AND QUITE EAGER TO VENT CRITICISM OF FORMER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN LISBON OVER ITS FAILURE TO PAY SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO MOZAMBIQUE'S NEEDS.

7. DR. JOANA SIMIAO CHECKED IN APRIL 26 TO SAY NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE CHANGED GUMO PLANS AND SHE NO LONGER EXPECTS TAKE GUMO CASE BEFORE UN COMMITTEE WITHIN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, AS PROBLEM HAS NOW BECOME PURELY AN INTERNAL ONE. SHE EXPECTS TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO BRING GUMO OBJECTIVES BEFORE PUBLIC AND TO WORK OPENLY TO ESTABLISH GUMO AS FULL-FLEDGED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00278 261057Z

ELECTIONS PROMISED IN SPINOLA'S SPEECH.

8. COMMENT: WHILE TOO EARLY MAKE DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT, OUR FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT MAJORITY OF ARTICULATE POPULATION OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORS NEW DEVELOPMENT, AND WHILE SOME EXPRESS QUALMS OVER PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY ASPECTS OF NEW CONTROLLING GROUP, SENTIMENT IS THAT THINGS COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE WORSE THAN THEY HAVE BEEN. EVERYONE SEEMS

DELIGHTED AT FIRST UNCENSORED PRESS ACCOUNTS SEEN HERE IN
OVER FORTY YEARS. LIFE IN LOURENCO MARQUES GOES ON NORMALLY
AND GOVT OFFICIALS CONTINUE CARRY OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS.
VAN OSS

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